

# PF Bridge Collapses

Tragedy struck Post Falls early Sunday, March 28, when the center section of the Post Falls bridge, at the south end of Spokane street, collapsed.

It all started when Allen R. Kelly was crossing the bridge enroute to his home, and due to slick conditions of the roadway Mr. Kelly slid into the eastside railing.

Bill Jones, Jr., coming to Post Falls from his home on the south side came upon the accident, which blocked travel. He sent for help after placing Kelly in his pickup. Mike Root went to inform officials.

Harry Button, Post Falls city patrolman and Allen R. Chaffin, who was riding with Officer Button, arrived shortly at the scene of the accident and Button was radioing for an ambulance when the bridge

gave way.

Jones, who had been standing near the patrol car, Officer Button and Chaffin, who was sitting in the police car, went down into the water at the same time, as did Kelly's auto.

Button and Jones surfaced, but Chaffin was trapped in the police car.

Harry Button was rescued by Kootenai County Sheriff's officers who had secured a boat, owned by Bill Donkelaar, from the north side bank, while Jones was taken to the south bank by Mrs. William Fandry and Marvin Mellick, in the Fandry boat, approximately 30 minutes after climbing up on some planks and girders of the collapsed bridge. They were taken by Post Falls ambulance to Kootenai Memorial hospital.

Jones was released later on Sunday afternoon, but Harry Button still remains after he suffered a seige of pneumonia from exposure.

The body of Chaffin was recovered around 10:30 a. m. dergast, Bob Strause and Bill Sunday by divers John Pen-White.

It was reported that Allen Kelly was treated at the hospital later Sunday morning where he went on his own for treatment.

The two autos, Post Falls City patrol car and Kelly's car, were taken from the river on Monday afternoon by the divers, equipment from the Georgia Pacific Lumber company and Jerry's Body Shop wreckers.

The Georgia-Pacific tugboat and crewmen worked also on

Idaho State Board for Vocational Education and North Idaho Junior College.

For further information, please contact the Vocational Counselor, Room 17 of the vocational building, or phone 667 7422, extension 240 or 241.

## MEETING NOTICE

Music Boosters organization will meet Thursday (tonight), April 1, at 7:30 p. m., at the high school music room. All parents are urged to attend to help plan the up-coming carnival.

Sunday in helping to rescue Chaffin's body.

With the collapse of the bridge, close to 25 families on the south side of the river were without natural gas supply for 18 hours before Washington Water Power officials installed bottled propane gas to each house. The Power company will maintain this service until other arrangements can be made.